

**Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi Calls on UC Board of Regents,  
Students, and Supporters of Education to “Stand Up and Fight”  
Further Student Fee Increases during Regents Meeting**

SACRAMENTO - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, a University of California regent and California State University trustee, today spoke out against further student fee increases during the UC Board of Regents meeting at UC Riverside. Here is a transcription of Lt. Governor Garamendi's remarks:

“The proposed budget that was signed basically requires that this group of regents approve a 9.3 percent increase in the fees, which amounts to something slightly less than \$700. It's interesting to note that the legislature decided to not increase other fees by some amount or another but instead decided to impose upon the students what could arguably – and I'll make that argument – be called a tax of \$700 additional tax on every student in the University of California system, and about half that amount in an additional tax increase for every student in the CSU system. That is a particularly stupid tax policy when there are further options available. I'll just point out that the one percent increase in the sales tax of somebody who chooses to buy a \$50,000 Mercedes would amount to some \$500 increase in their tax burden. There are options out there, and what I would hope that this body would consider is to stand up and fight. And to push back. To push back really hard, because you are powerful, and the university is powerful. It has a voice, and it really ought to use its voice to stand up and fight and say, “Enough.” Enough already. Enough of stupid taxes on students. Enough of the starvation of the education system. We are starving this system, and in doing so, we are destroying the economic potential for the future. And I think we really have to stand up and fight. You got to push back. We just can't say, “Well, there's nothing we can do. We're just going to have to accept it.” I'm all for a fight, and that's a fight about the future, at least in my opinion.”

Audio of the Lt. Governor's remarks: <http://www.ltg.ca.gov/images/audio/31909BoardofRegentsMeeting/boardofregentsstudentfees.mp3>

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